

Dear Parents and Students,

On December 8th and 10th Los Alamitos High School and Griffins With A Mission (GWAM), a student club that promotes human relations, will be hosting our annual Freshman Retreat. The day will emphasize tolerance and diversity, and encourage students to examine their school's human relations.

The retreat is designed to bring together a diverse group of students to examine topics such as prejudice and stereotyping. Students will experience a variety of activities and be given the tools needed to foster greater tolerance, respect and safety on campus. GWAM is dedicated to creating a safe environment where everyone feels welcome and is able to achieve his/her potential without the distraction of intolerance, disrespect, or fear. The intent of this retreat is NOT to persuade, influence, or negate any values taught at home; rather, it is to promote an atmosphere of respect as well as an appreciation of diversity. The LAHS staff and administration support this activity as it raises awareness teaches skills and understanding that will benefit your student as s/he progresses through high school and life.

Freshman will meet at 7:50 a.m. in the LAHS gym. Half of the freshman class will attend on Tuesday, 12/8 and the other half on Thursday 12/10. Buses will transport students to and from Weaver Elementary for the retreat. Specially trained GWAM facilitators and teachers will lead small groups (25 students) in discussions, readings, and activities designed to achieve harmony and safety at LAHS. Students have the option of paying \$5 for pizza, a drink and a snack, or may bring their own lunch. The \$5 must **be prepaid** in the activities Office. The student must keep and show their receipt in order to receive lunch that day. There will be an early bus to bring athletes back for athletic competitions. All other students will be bussed back by 2:15. For students who require health office support (i.e. diabetes, asthma, allergies, etc.) it is the parent's responsibility to contact the health office and make necessary arrangements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us for clarification.

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I give permission for my child, _____ to attend to ride the bus and attend GWAM's Freshman Retreat. (**Print** student name)

(Parent Signature)